

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A<sub>1</sub> --Furthermore, a method is adopted for reducing frictional resistance of a ship body by creating a negative pressure state in a portion of water admitted from a water intake opening provided in a bow section of the ship body below a waterline so as to generate micro-bubbles ~~of~~ by ejecting atmospheric air into the water and discharging the micro-bubbles together with the water to a water discharge opening provided in a bottom section of the ship.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A<sub>2</sub> --For example, when the ship is stationary or moving at a low speed so that the friction reducing effects are minor, the negative pressure forming section 54 is disposed inside the ship body (inside the submerged surface), as shown in Figure 13A so as to suppress increase in resistance due to the negative pressure forming section 54. On the other hand, when the ship is cruising at a certain speed, the negative pressure forming section 54 is protruded into the water (downward) from the bottom section, as shown in Figures 13B, 13C, to generate bubbles 70 in the water to reduce frictional resistance of the ship. When the protruding height of the negative pressure forming section 54 is varied, flow rate per unit time of the water flowing into negative pressure forming section 54 is altered, and the flow velocity of water in the water passage 67 is changed. Accordingly, the state of the negative pressure region 71 (static pressure and the like) and the magnitude of the force acting from the gas/liquid interface in the detaching direction is altered,

Appl. No. 09/822,942

Amdt. Dated June 23, 2003

Reply to Office action of January 21, 2003

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concl'd* and the amount of bubbles 70 included in the water is changed.--

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